

Veterans' Benefits

As of October 15, 2005, with 483 facilities reporting, 11,837 residents have been reported as veteran's status – meaning a veteran, widow, spouse or dependent of a veteran.

To date, 239 letters with nursing home data have been sent out to 83 county veterans affairs offices. Of the 3,269 veterans identified by the facilities as veterans, the breakdown to date is:

- 158 could not be confirmed as a veteran
- 372 – confirmed veteran status
- 121 – new benefits applied for
- 4 – refused to apply
- 59 – over asset limit or do not meet requirements
- 65 – are receiving benefits
- 30 – paperwork in progress

The remaining veterans are being followed up on as counties receive information returned from the resident's point of contact. The total number of veterans in the state is approximately 275,000.

The number of veterans in nursing homes on Medicaid is not available; DHS does not track it.

The number of veterans currently eligible for Medicaid is also unknown.

Due to privacy issues and the time factor involved to individually check with each claimant's Power of Attorney (POA) or with the claimant themselves, it would be hard to give an exact number.

We continue to work with our Federal counterparts at the VA Regional Office in Des Moines to develop a tracking mechanism for only nursing home residents' applications.

Our veterans needing and deserving their entitled VA benefits are more than nursing home residents. That is why we continue to do outreach with our Supermarkets and Enduring Families' briefings.

Attached are the comparison numbers for the last four years for Compensation & Pension and Medical Benefits. These are the numbers comprised by the Federal VA and NASDVA.